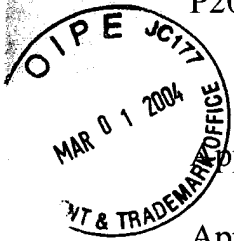


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Fred ZACOUTO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3738

Appln. No. : 10/040,429

(Continuation of US application 09/200,855)

Examiner: B. Snow

Filed : January 9, 2002

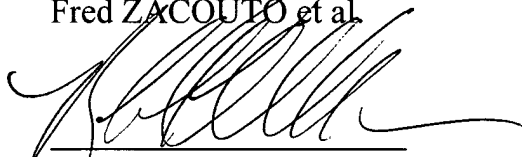
For : SKELETAL IMPLANT

REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME

Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 23313-1450
Sir:

Please extend the time for response to the Office Action dated August 29, 2003 by three (3) months, from December 1, 2003 to March 1, 2004 (February 29, 2004 being a Sunday). A check including the amount of \$ 475.00 is enclosed as payment for the fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred ZACOUTO et al.


Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394 *35.013*

March 1, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, Virginia 20191
(703) 716-1191

03/04/2004 DTESSEM1 00000138 10040429

01 FC:2201
02 FC:2253

~~43.00 TP~~
475.00 OP